

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02187 120838Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 H-01 MCT-01
SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00
/045 W

-----094800 120844Z /14

O 120755Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0677

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2187

FOR INR/RNA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO
SUBJ: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ABROAD: KUWAIT

REF: STATE 91578

1. FOLLOWING KEYED TO REFTEL REQUEST FOR SUBJECT INFORMATION:

A. THE PLO IS REPRESENTED IN KUWAIT.

B. THE PLO ENJOYS FORMAL QUASI-DIPLOMATIC STATUS IN KUWAIT.
BREAKDOWN OF PLO ACTIVITIES AND REPRESENTATION FOLLOWS:

(A) PLO INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE HANDLED BY TWO PALESTINE
NEWS AGENCY (Wafa) JOURNALISTS WHO HAVE OFFICES IN THE MAIN
PLO OFFICE BUILDING. THEY ARE ACTIVE IN PLACING MATERIAL
IN THE LOCAL PRESS THROUGH THE MANY PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS
EMPLOYED IN NEWSPAPERS HERE.

(2) SINCE THE PLO HAS ITS OWN OFFICE HERE THERE IS NO NEED
FOR ACTIVITIES UNDER COVER OF OTHER ARAB DIPLOMATIC
ESTABLISHMENTS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02187 120838Z

(3) THE PLO HAS ENJOYED PARTIAL DIPLOMATIC STATUS SINCE
1965. ALTHOUGH NOT CARRIED IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST AS AN
"EMBASSY," IT IS LISTED AS AN "OFFICE OR ORGANIZATION" WHICH
ENJOYS SPECIAL PRIVILEGES (LISTED ALONGSIDE UNDP, ILO,
UNESCO, THE ARAB FUND FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
AND THE ORGANIZATION OF ARAB PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES).
ITS SENIOR REPRESENTATIVE, ALI NASIR YASI, HAS HELD HIS POSITION

SINCE NOVEMBER 1971. HIS NAME IS NOTED UNDER TITLE "DIRECTOR" IN THE DIPLOMATIC LIST. HE IS NOT, HOWEVER, REFERRED TO AS "AMBASSADOR." WE BELIEVE THERE ARE ABOUT EIGHT SUB-OFFICES OF THE PLO IN KUWAIT IN ADDITION TO THE MAIN "EMBASSY" BUILDING.

(4) NOT APPLICABLE.

(5) THE PLO OFFICE INCLUDES A SECURITY CHIEF/DEPARTMENT, AND SEVERAL ACCOUNTANTS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE AND CLERICAL EMPLOYEES. ESTIMATED TOTAL EMPLOYEES IN THE MAIN OFFICE: FIFTEEN. PROBABLE PART-TIME EMPLOYEES IN THE OTHER AREA OFFICES (LOCAL HIRES) MAY NUMBER MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED.

C. THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT ACCORDS FATAH SPECIAL STATUS DUE PARTIALLY TO THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS EXISTING WITH TOP FATAH LEADERS (YASIR ARAFAT AND KHALID AL-HASSAN, TO NAME ONLY TWO) WHOSE FAMILIES HAVE LIVED IN KUWAIT. FATAH'S OFFICE IN KUWAIT IS OVERT, AND ITS LEADER FOR KUWAIT AND THE GULF, SALIM AL-ZA'NUN, IS RESIDENT IN KUWAIT AND WAS UNTIL RECENTLY A PART-TIME LAWYER AT THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. FATAH OWES ITS PRIVILEGED POSITION IN KUWAIT PARTLY TO THE FACT OF ITS PRIMARY POSITION IN THE PLO. THE PFLP ALSO MAINTAINS AN OFFICE IN KUWAIT, THOUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE PLO IS THE MAIN REASON WHY IT IS PERMITTED TO MAINTAIN THAT OFFICE. COMPARED TO FATAH, ITS PRESENCE IS OF A MORE QUIET NATURE. ITS LEADER, A TEACHER EMPLOYED BY THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUWAIT 02187 120838Z

HAS OCCASIONAL PROTOCOL DEALINGS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT. THE PFLP, SA'IGA, THE PFLP/GENERAL COMMAND AND THE ALF HAVE SMALL ORGANIZATIONS IN KUWAIT BUT WITHOUT FORMAL RECOGNITION BY GOK.

D. DIPLOMATIC OR QUASI DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ENJOYED BY PLO: FLYING FLAG, CD LICENSE PLATES, ACCESS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, PERMISSION TO CARRY HAND-GUNS (FOR CERTAIN OF ITS OFFICIALS).

2. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: THE LOCAL PLO OFFICE IS FIRMLY IN THE HANDS OF FATAH, AND HAS BEEN HEADED BY UNAMBITIOUS, POLITICALLY CONSERVATIVE MEN WHO ARE LONG-TIME RESIDENTS OF KUWAIT. IT IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE KUWAIT GOVERNMENT USES THE PLO OFFICE TO POLICE THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY HERE: RELATIONS BETWEEN THE LOCAL PLO OFFICE AND THE GOK ARE CLOSE AND CORDIAL. PLO OFFICE DIRECTOR YASIN IS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL BUSINESS VENTURES IN KUWAIT AND HAS A VESTED INTEREST IN THE STABILITY AND SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY. HIS PREDECESSOR, KHAYRI ABU AL-JUBAYN, WAS AND STILL IS EMPLOYED BY THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND ELECTRICITY. ASSISTING YASIN, AS DEPUTY PLO LEADER AND HEAD OF THE PALESTINIAN

WORKERS UNION IN KUWAIT, IS AWNI AL-BATTASH. BATTASH WORKS
WITH THE VARIOUS PALESTINIAN PROFESSIONAL GROUPS ORGANIZED
IN KUWAIT (DOCTORS, LAWYERS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS, WOMENS) WHICH,
THOUGH NOT DIRECTLY SUBORDINATE TO THE LOCAL PLO, OBVIOUSLY
HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH IT.
MAESTRONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT02187
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780157-0131
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780466/aaaacecn.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5f35d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 91578
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2996237
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ABROAD: KUWAIT
TAGS: PDIP, PINT, ASEC, PLO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5f35d0b1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014